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*Laboratory for Astrophysics
and Space Research*

January 8, 1988

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
The Rockefeller University
Office of the President
1230 York Avenue
NEW YORK, NY 10021-6399

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

I greatly appreciate your letter of December 28, 1987 referring to my collection of lectures, "Truth and Beauty." I was particularly interested in what you have said about the differences in creativity among biologists and physicists; and also in your remarks relating to your early background and motivations that led to your great discoveries. And I was glad to be enlightened that there had been biologists with a continued lifetime of productivity like Rayleigh.

On the matter of recognizing young scientists by election to National Academies: I am sorry that I have rarely been concerned or thought about such matters in the belief that the judgement by posterity is what really matters; and that there is often not much correlation between the judgements of contemporaries and of posterity.

Yes, I should equally look forward, too, to an occasion when we could compare and contrast our views on these matters at leisure.

Yours sincerely,

S. Chandrasekhar

S. Chandrasekhar



p.s.: I overlooked to mention that I found your article, "Genetic recombination in bacteria: A discovery account" most fascinating.